

ALAMEDA READS NEWSLETTER

Jan-Mar 2013

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(510) 865-2454

alamedareads@ci.alameda.ca.us

Homeschooling

By Karla Santillan

It is a raining and dark morning in Alameda. I just woke up. I can hear my neighbors rushing to work. I can hear children outside complaining about the weather. Everybody is starting their day in a cold morning. My 3 children are in bed. I know they will wake up soon. Every morning the first thing they do is to come to me and give me good mornings, kisses and hugs. That is a great morning. They are never worried about getting ready for school. They live in the school!!

For about four years we have been homeschooling our kids. As parents we are always looking and working for the best of our children. We were living in Oakland when our oldest son started kindergarten. Our local school was not what we were expecting. Its scores were very low; it was an insecure environment, and a lot of kids for just one teacher. It seemed chaotic for us. Since we were worried about that, one of my friends introduced the concept of homeschooling to me. At first, it sounded like a crazy unreasonable idea but after some research, my husband and I decided to give it a try. That first year was a challenge. We had to adjust our lives into a new way of living. The responsibility of educating our children became our first priority. In homeschooling there are days when everything works smoothly, but other days are very challenging. Homeschooling has become part of our daily lives. We have learned that our home is our classroom but the outside world is the school. Wherever we go, whatever we do is a great opportunity to learn. Homeschooling can be difficult but I believe that if families learn to overcome the challenges that homeschooling presents, the results can be extremely rewarding. The children will acquire high-quality education. Nowadays, there is a great variety of homeschooling programs, tools and great computer programs, which not only support but facilitate learning for children. Also, homeschooling gives opportunities to the children to have extra time to do or practice different things such as sports and music. But most importantly, there will be a strengthening of the relationships between each member of the family. We learn to learn together. We learn to help each other.



Karla with her children and her tutor, Patti.

Share A Postcard & Spread The Word About Alameda Reads!

Alameda Reads provides a great opportunity for many in our community. However, we cannot tell everyone about the program. We've included four Alameda Reads postcards with this newsletter. Leave them on bulletin boards at your apartment complex, the laundromat, stores, or cafes. Please share them to help us tell people about the Alameda Reads and how they can join. Thank you!



Share your cards with:

- ◇ Your friends
- ◇ Your children's schools
- ◇ Afterschool programs
- ◇ Other organizations

ALAMEDA READS

Sue Mark
Program Director

Michelle Barron
Program Assistant

OFFICE HOURS

Monday — Wednesday 9:00 AM—2:00 PM
Thursday 4:00—8:00 PM

CONTACT

(510) 865-2454
2203 Central Ave. Room 350
Alameda, CA 94501

alamedareads@ci.alameda.ca.us
www.alamedareads.com

Welcome New Tutors!



Left to right: Shirley Redublo, Aisling Conneally, Louis Trager, Goldie Grover, Kathryn Rush, Susan Hiraki, Craig Deeley
Not pictured: Pam Lyons, Patricia Prinz

Last year, Alameda Reads trained 23 new tutors and introduced them to important and lasting new relationships. In this article, a tutor reflects on the special relationship she had with a learner for a very long time.

Tribute to Guy

By Joyce McConeghey

Someone told me it has been 26 years since I first volunteered with Alameda Reads where I met Guy. We worked through the program's materials: grammar, spelling, comprehension. I thought what we were studying in books needed to be relevant to real life, so I encouraged Guy to bring things from his life to his lessons. Over the years we worked on rental agreements, applications, a roof tile warranty, census questionnaires, and instruction books. We studied maps, menus, and music. Guy accomplished many new things: he began voting regularly, he organized trips to Alaska and Europe, he took a community college psychology course, he wrote Christmas cards, he learned to use a computer. All these things enhanced his ability to carry on the business of life.

That said, the most gratifying moment for me as a tutor was the first time he read a book for the sheer pleasure of it. I had assured him that there comes a time when the mechanics of reading drop away and you become completely immersed in a story. He didn't believe it until he experienced it. He read *Hunting the Desert Whale* by Erle Stanley Gardner and loved it! After that he became a regular reader with particular interest in nature and spirituality.

I'm grateful to Alameda Reads for allowing me to share the gift of reading with Guy and for introducing me to a friend. His sudden death shocks and grieves me. I will miss him Monday night after Monday night when he doesn't tap on my front window to announce his arrival for our time together.



Preparing to Vote

By Julius Manney

The *Easy Voter Guide* is friendly, because I absolutely think the standard voter book is difficult to read. Propositions are very clear and the "pro and cons" get straight to the point. Thank you Alameda Reads for providing the *Easy Voter Guide*!



LEARNER SUCCESSES



Lou F: got the promotion he applied for this year **Evelyn:** voted for the first time

Benny: took the CAHSEE

Jungsook, Ling, Inkyung, Hannah, Chansath: came to all of the *Computer* small groups in September & October

Ling: reading to her grandson

Karla: will take the CBEST writing test in January **Akiko:** came to all of the *Easy Voting* small groups in October & November

Inkyung, Julius, Cindy: used the *Easy Voter Guide* to prepare to vote

Jack: completed a real estate training class

Billie: created an email account

Claudia: is using PowerPoint at work

Please share your successes for the next newsletter!

Book Club News: Best Books of 2012

The Power of Half

"It tests you on your giving capability."

"I can't imagine it happened in America."



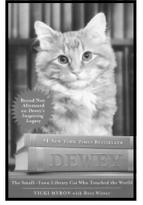
The Doctor and the Diva

"It was very sweet. It was a kind of romance and a suspense. She was a very independent woman."



Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World

"There was a lot of enthusiasm in the group for Dewey."



Book Club enjoys their holiday party in December.

Special Book Discussions with the Alameda Free Library

This year, the Alameda Free Library is holding a special set of book discussions called "Muslim Journeys". In February and March, come to the Book Club to discuss books related to this program. In March, join the library's discussions at the Alameda Multicultural Center. Please call the Alameda Reads office for more information.

Future Book Club Books:

Jan 17: *This I Believe*— Life lessons from famous and unknown people

Feb 21: *Reading Lolita in Tehran*— A story about a secret book club in Iran

Mar. 21: Book Club will continue *Reading Lolita in Tehran*.

Pick up your free copy of these books at the Alameda Reads Office!

New Resources at the Library

Alameda Reads will soon be opening a new collection of our books at the library for tutors and learners. We have been bringing one copy of all our books to the Children's Office in the library. The books will only be available for Alameda Reads tutors and learners to use in the library. These books will not be available to the public and they cannot be taken home. This collection will be a great resource for anyone who wants to learn something new or find the perfect book to answer a question.

Stay tuned for informational meetings about how to use this collection.

Special Thanks

Alameda Reads would not exist without the generous support from our volunteers and donations.

We are very excited to receive money again from the California State Library in 2012-2013. The Friends of The Alameda Free Library and The Library Foundation have each generously contributed to Alameda Reads.

We are particularly grateful for additional volunteer support from:

Joe Brandt
Jordona Elderts
Mary Kay Hardwick
Jack Huang

Akiko Journeay
Marc Lambert
John Quick
Sarah Zhang



We need more volunteer help in our office! See the flyer for more information.

Alameda Reads Small Group Learning

All tutors and learners are welcome to all classes.

Please call 865-2454 to sign up.

BOOK CLUB

Thursdays once a month

6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

January 17 February 21

March 21 April 18

**Alameda Reads Office
2203 Central Ave. Room 350**

IPHONES, IPADS, AND APPS

WITH JOE

Tuesdays

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM

January 15 January 29

January 22 February 5

**Computer Lab, 2nd Floor
Alameda Main Library**

NEW SATURDAY CLASS

“News You Can Use” is ending! In 2013, there will be a new class on Saturdays. We will be talking about food, cooking, and the environment.

GROWING FOOD

WITH MIKE

Saturdays once a month

10:00 AM—12:00 PM

January 12 February 2

March 2 April 6

**Room 138
Alameda Main Library**

Read Write Learn

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